

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NRC-05 ERDE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 H-01  
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 /085 W  
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O 141112Z JUN 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4180  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 05280

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG  
SUBJECT: NPG: LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM FOR TNF MODERN-  
IZATION

REF: OTTAWA 04883 (DTG 092049Z JUN 77)

SUMMARY: WE SEE TNF MODERNIZATION AS DIFFERENT AND  
SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAMS ADOPT-  
ED BY DPC. WE SHOULD MAKE THE DISTINCTION CLEAR WITH THE  
ALLIES FROM THE OUTSET, AND SHOULD INFORM THE ALLIES OF  
STEPS THE US FORESEES LEADING UP TO THE OCTOBER NPG MEET-  
ING, CENTERING ON THE US PAPER PROMISED AT OTTAWA.  
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 5 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DECISIONS REGISTERED BY NPG MINISTERS AT OTTAWA  
ON TNF MODERNIZATION (REFTEL, PARA 8) SET THE STAGE FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NINTH LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM  
APPROVED BY THE DPC. WE SEE TNF MODERNIZATION AS DIFFER-  
ENT IN CHARACTER AND SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER EIGHT PRO-  
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GRAMS WHICH ARE UNDERWAY IN THE DPC. WHILE THESE EIGHT  
PROGRAMS ARE UNDER OVERALL DIRECTION OF THE EWG, WE  
BELIEVE TNF MODERNIZATION SHOULD REMAIN ENTIRELY IN THE  
NPG, WHERE US CONTROL CAN BEST BE MAINTAINED, AND UNDER  
THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF MINISTERS. FURTHER, IT WOULD  
APPEAR TO US NEITHER DESIRABLE NOR POSSIBLE TO ADDRESS  
TNF MODERNIZATION IN THE SAME PROGRAMMATIC TERMS ASSOCI-

ATED WITH THE OTHER PROGRAMS. FINALLY, THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL EXPERIENCE DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS' DISCUSSIONS IN THE NPG ON TNF IMPROVEMENTS ON WHICH THE CURRENT INITIATIVE CAN BUILD.

2. THE ALLIES WILL PRESS US IN THE DAYS AHEAD FOR US VIEWS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE TNF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM INFORMED AND TO DAMPEN ANY MOVES IN THE IS OR ELSEWHERE TO SET UP TASK FORCE STRUCTURES SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR OTHER LONG-TERM PROGRAMS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS WE FORESEE LEADING UP TO THE OCTOBER NPG, CENTERING AROUND THE US PAPER PROMISED AT OTTAWA. WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL STEPS:

- PROVIDE US PAPER TO ALL TEN OTHER NPG COUNTRIES AND NMAS DURING FIRST HALF OF SEPTEMBER;
- HOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION BY NPG PERMREPS (WHICH OF COURSE ALSO INCLUDES ALL TEN NPG ALLIES) ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND POSSIBLE FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS (WRITTEN VIEWS BY NATIONS OR NMAS MIGHT BE PRESENTED BEFORE OR AFTER SUCH DISCUSSION);
- HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BY NPG MINISTERS IN OCTOBER, RESULTING IN DIRECTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS.

3. THE SEQUENCE OUTLINED ABOVE WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLIES TO DIGEST THE US PAPER PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER MINISTERIAL, ALLOW ALLIES WHO WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT BARI  
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TO REGISTER THEIR VIEWS, AND LAY GROUNDWORK FOR AGREEMENT ON FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTIONS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO TELL ALLIES THAT WE SEE THE CURRENT TNF INITIATIVE AS AN EXTENSION OF THE PAST TWO YEARS' DIALOGUE ON TNF IMPROVEMENTS.

4. THE TNF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM COULD BE RAISED AT JUNE 16 EWG MEETING ON LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAMS. IN ORDER TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT FROM OUTSET, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO STATE US VIEWS, MAKING CLEAR THE DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN TNF MODERNIZATION AND THE OTHER LONG-TERM PROGRAMS. WE WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO DRAW ON APPROPRIATE POINTS IN PARAS 1-3 ABOVE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 16 ON PROPOSED US APPROACH IN EWG IN PARA 4 ABOVE, AND ON RECOMMENDED TNF MODERNIZATION STEPS IN PARA 2 ABOVE. STREATOR

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## Message Attributes

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